



Pet waste that enters storm drains, releases harmful bacteria, lowering oxygen and increasing ammonium levels in our rivers, killing aquatic life.



This brochure has been distributed to you by the Huntington VAMC in an effort to increase your knowledge of our storm water management program and educational efforts.

# Teaching an old dog a new trick?



If he can do it,  
so can you.

## Keep pet waste out of our Storm Drains!

# Pet Waste



## How does pet waste harm the environment?

Did you know that most storm drains are not connected to the sanitary sewer systems and treatment plants? Whatever enters the catch basins in our parking lots and road goes untreated into creeks, streams and rivers. The primary purpose of storm drains is to carry rainwater away from developed areas to prevent flooding.

## What Can You Do?

- ♦ Be prepared, when you go for a walk take a plastic bag
- ♦ Pick up pet waste
- ♦ Remove pet waste from areas where children play
- ♦ Keep pet waste away from vegetable gardens and water supplies
- ♦ Do not add pet waste to compost piles - it will not get hot enough to kill the disease organisms



## Methods of Disposal

- ♦ Flush down the toilet
- ♦ Put in the trash
- ♦ Bury in the yard

## Diseases that can be transmitted from pet waste

- ♦ **Campylobacteriosis** - Bacterial infection - frequently causes diarrhea
- ♦ **Cryptosporidium** - parasite - symptoms include: diarrhea, stomach cramps, nausea and dehydration - may be fatal to those with depressed immune systems
- ♦ **Toxocariasis** - roundworms - may cause vision loss, rash, fever, and cough
- ♦ **Toxoplasmosis** - parasite - symptoms include headache, muscle aches, lymph node enlargement - may cause birth defects if contracted by pregnant women

